



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2011

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2011**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7PM

1. PRESENT

Cr. Diana Asmar (Mayor)
Cr. Stanley Chiang
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Nick Katsis
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Ben Morgan
Cr. Trent McCarthy
Cr. Steven Tsitas

Council Officers

Daniel Freer – Acting Chief Executive Officer
Michael Ballock – Director City Works and Development
Vijaya Vaidyanath – Director Corporate and Business Services
Katrina Knox – Group Manager Community Services
Fred Warner – Group Manager People and Performance
Rhys Thomas – Governance and Corporate Planning Manager
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was lodged for the absence of Cr. Fontana.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. N. Katsis
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 320

5.1 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN

Cr. Morgan reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Council Briefing Session.
- Resident matters.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

Cr. Greco reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Lunch at Reservoir Greek Elderly Citizens Club.
- Lunch at Reservoir Italian Pensioners Club.
- Meeting with the new Manager Communications and Advocacy, Tiffany White.
- Meeting with members of the Darebin Progress Association.
- Meeting with Craig Ondarchie MLC, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region.
- Board meeting of Apprenticeships Plus and Inner Northern Group Training Ltd.
- Board meeting of Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria.
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council meeting.
- Resident issues regarding rates, footpaths and planning.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

Cr. McCarthy reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Business Development and Employment Strategy Steering Committee meeting.
- Meeting with resident regarding chronic illness and food security issues.
- Meeting with Metropolitan Fire Brigade regarding the 'White Ribbon' campaign.
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group meeting.
- Spoke at Northern Football League 'White Ribbon' Grand Final.
- Launch of East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Community Garden.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Meeting onsite with resident affected by the 2011/2012 vacant land rate.
- Meeting regarding African community music events in December.
- Interview regarding community issues in Alphington.

- Various meetings with residents and traders regarding planning, rubbish, playspaces social inclusion, children's services, libraries and Route 86 works.
- Briefing regarding legislation to give power to Councils to make decisions on the installation of Telco towers.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG

Cr. Chiang reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Hosted delegation from Anhui Province in China regarding newly formed Australian Friends of Hefei group, of which he is President.
- 'Turning of the Sod' – Chinese Aged Care Nursing Home extension in Donvale.
- 3CW Chinese Radio/Chinese Radio International (CRI) Cooperative Launch.
- Chinese National Day celebrations.
- Anhui Chinese Association function.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS

Cr. Katsis reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Strategic Projects Steering Committee meeting.
- Onsite meetings with residents regarding planning and other constituent concerns.
- 'Harmaceuticals - boost your pill skills' presentation.
- Meeting with Craig Ondarchie MLC, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region.

5.6 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

Cr. Laurence reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Council Briefing Session
- Meeting with Craig Ordarchie MLC, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region regarding Reservoir Junction.
- Meeting with residents regarding parking issues in Mahoneys Road Reservoir.
- Opening of East Reservoir Community Gardens.
- Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) meeting (cancelled).
- Meeting with Council Officers regarding vandalism on Epping train line.
- Meeting with Colin Brooks MP, Member for Bundoora regarding education funding in Darebin.

5.7 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

Cr. Tsitas reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Council Briefing Session.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Constituent issues.

5.8 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. DIANA ASMAR

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church.
- Mayor's Event meeting.
- Meeting with Northland Management.
- Feast of St Maria function.
- East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Community Gardens.
- Strategic Projects Steering Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Darebin Alcohol Accord forum.
- Residents meeting regarding 2011/2012 vacant land Council rates.
- 'Harmaceuticals - boost your pill skills' presentation.
- Meeting with Craig Ondarchie MLC, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region.
- 'Gooch's Utopia' Exhibition at Bundoora Homestead.
- Awareness forum 'Blue September' on prostate cancer.
- Poetry Festival - Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.
- Kindergarten meetings regarding safety issues.
- Alphington Neighbourhood Action Group regarding proposed heritage overlays.
- Press meeting.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

MINUTE NO. 321

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, invited questions from members of the public gallery.

The following questions were submitted:

- Kevin Parker of Alphington asked a question about consultative meetings called in relation to planning permit applications. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Asmar and the Director City Works and Development, Michael Ballock.
- Jack Aquilina of Preston asked a question about a proposed 'Darebin Muslim Reachout Officer'. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Asmar and the Group Manager People and Performance, Fred Warner.
- Chris Kessarlis of North Dandenong asked a question about a proposed unit development on a block of land he owns in Reservoir. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Asmar.
- John Nugent of Reservoir asked a question about completion of works being undertaken at Donath Reserve. The question was responded to by the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Freer.
- Peter Thomson of Reservoir asked a question about Council's local procurement policy and purchase of safety footwear from a local supplier who has recently ceased operation. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Asmar.
- Keith Coffey of Reservoir asked a question on behalf of Annette Sinclair of Reservoir about the roundabout at the corner of Wood Street and Greenbelt Avenue Reservoir. The question was responded to by the Director City Works and Development, Michael Ballock.

After Public Question Time was concluded, one further question was submitted in writing.

7. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

7.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

MINUTE NO. 322

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 76AA of the *Local Government Act 1989* to include Advisory Committees of Council if at least one Councillor is present or, a planned or scheduled meeting attended by at least half of the Councillors and one Council Officer that considers matters intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

Written records of Assemblies of Councillors must be kept and include the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending, the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending, and whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Pursuant to section 80A (2) of the Act, these records must be, as soon as practicable, reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Preston Business Advisory Committee meeting – 14 September 2011
- Northland Structure Plan Steering Committee meeting – 15 September 2011
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group meeting – 21 September 2011
- Council Briefing Session – 26 September 2011

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT the record of the Assembly of Councillors held on 14, 15, 21 and 26 September 2011 be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

CARRIED



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title: Preston Business Advisory Committee Date: Wednesday 14 September 2011 Location: Red Room, Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street, Preston.
PRESENT:	Councillors: Cr Vince Fontana Council Staff: Wendy Dinning, Sarah-Jade Chung Other: Representatives of Bendigo Bank, Preston Marketing Coordinator, Old Fire Station Café, Westpac, Cheaper Party Supplies and Bank of Cyprus.
APOLOGIES:	Preston Eye Care, Preston Market Transport Ticketing Authority, Snap Printing Preston, Northern Bullants Football Club, Mayor Cr Diana Asmar and Eddy Boscariol.

The Assembly commenced at 4.10pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Marketing Report	No disclosures were made
2	Preston Festival	No disclosures were made
3	Financial Report (information only)	No disclosures were made
4	Capital Works/ Operations	No disclosures were made
5	Website	No disclosures were made
6	Other Business	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 5.03pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Sarah-Jade Chung Officer Title: Retail Development & Marketing
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ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title: Northland Structure Plan Steering Committee Meeting Date: Thursday 15 September 2011 Location: Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors: Cr Vince Fontana. Council Staff: Darren Rudd, Gilda Di Vincenzo, Kylie Long, Ben Grounds Other: Representatives from Department Planning and Community Development, City of Banyule, Northland Secondary College and Colonial First State Global Asset Management.
APOLOGIES:	Cr Nick Katsis, Cr Ben Morgan

The Assembly commenced at 4.30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Northland Principal Activity Centre Structure Plan project.	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 5.40pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Gilda Di Vincenzo Officer Title: Senior Strategic Planner
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ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Environmental Reference Group
	Date:	Wednesday 21 September 2011
	Location:	Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Trent McCarthy
	Council Staff:	Sue Phillips, Michelle Bennett
	Other:	Darebin Environmental Reference Group members
APOLOGIES:		

The Assembly commenced at 7.20pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Darebin Waste Services and programs	No disclosures were made
2	Committee Renewal Process	No disclosures were made
3	General DERG business re environmental issues	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 9.05pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Sue Phillips
	Officer Title:	Manager, Environment and Natural Resources (Acting)



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	Monday 26 September 2011
	Location:	Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Diana Asmar (Mayor) Cr Vince Fontana, Cr Tim Laurence, Cr Nick Katsis, Cr Gaetano Greco, Cr Ben Morgan, Cr Steven Tsitas, Cr Trent McCarthy
	Council Staff:	Rasiah Dev, Michael Ballock, Vijaya Vaidyanath, Daniel Freer, Fred Warner, Katrina Knox, Kerrie Jordan (6.45pm-7pm), Eddie Boscaroli (7pm-7.15pm)
	Other:	None
APOLOGIES:		Cr. Stanley Chiang,

The Assembly commenced at 6.45pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Differential Rate on Vacant Land	No disclosures were made
2	Planning Scheme Review	No disclosures were made
3	Parking of Motor Vehicles on Footways	No disclosures were made
4	Report on final Productivity Commission report on older Australians incorporating a proposed advocacy plan	No disclosures were made
5	Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board	No disclosures were made
6	Early Years Plan and Early Years Infrastructure Plan	No disclosures were made
7	Parking provisions in Preston during the month of Ramadan	No disclosures were made
8	Annual Supply of Minor Civil Works CT201123	No disclosures were made

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

The Assembly concluded at 7.40pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Katrina Knox
	Officer Title:	Group Manager Community Services

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS**8.1 REVIEW OF PARKING ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF RAMADAN****MINUTE NO. 323****AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance****SUMMARY:**

On 1 August 2011, Council approved the request to allow general parking by non-permit holders every Friday during the month of Ramadan between 12pm and 3pm in residential permit zones in Kane Street, McDonald Street, Park Avenue and Ford Street Preston.

The change to parking arrangements created an additional 74 parking spots to be available in streets surrounding the Omar Bin al Kattab Mosque during peak times of worship during Ramadan.

The month of Ramadan ended on 31 August 2011 and Council officers have considered the impact of the parking amendments, the subject of this report.

CONSULTATION:

Omar Bin Al Kattab Mosque
Residents in Park Avenue and Ford Street
Traffic Services Unit
Multicultural Relations Officer

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence****SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco**

THAT Council note this report and the outcome of the review of parking arrangements during the month of Ramadan.

CARRIED

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Darebin City Council has been working closely with the governing committee of Omar Bin al Kattab Mosque since 2001. The work has centred on managing the amenity around the Mosque in relation to parking, traffic, noise control and community relations with the Cramer Street Preston neighbourhood. Every year, Council officers meet with representatives from the Mosque to determine the strategies to use to assist the smooth running of the increased activities during the holy month of Ramadan.

During Ramadan, many members of the Muslim community choose to attend the Mosque Friday prayers, as an integral part of their religious obligations. The increased attendance at the Mosque calls for increased demand on available parking in the Cramer Street neighbourhood.

In 2003, as part of a Living in Harmony Project, a Mosque and Council Project Reference Group was established to respond to community concerns about the Mosque's activities and their impact on the neighbourhood. Issues of concern included:

- Traffic and parking issues associated with increased usage of the Mosque on Fridays and during religious events
- International events which linked terrorism with Muslim communities and the impact of a subsequent community 'backlash'
- Negative media perceptions of Muslim people.

The Cramer Street Neighbourhood Project was successful, with a significant decrease in the level of complaints by neighbours and also a reduction in the number of traffic infringement notices. The results were directly attributed to the community relations initiatives organised by Council and the Mosque.

Since the completion of the project, the Project Reference Group has ceased to meet. An 'ad hoc' group with representation from the Council and Mosque has met to address issues of traffic management prior to the annual Ramadan event. In early June 2009, the then Coordinator Cultural Diversity visited the Mosque to re-engage with key members. Monthly meetings with relevant sections of Council were held to respond to a backlog of issues.

In a meeting on 14 August 2009, Council's Chief Executive Officer requested that the Social Inclusion and Diversity Branch negotiate a longer term stable outcome to ongoing traffic management issues and to take another look at the appeals process. The need for a formal relationship with the Mosque via a Memorandum of Understanding was discussed and subsequently, Darebin City Council endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding with Omar Bin al Kattab Mosque on 16 November 2009 including a resolution to investigate "*long term solution to traffic and parking issues pertaining to the Mosque*" (Council Report 16 November 2009).

Since the endorsement of the MOU, little progress was made in relation to addressing parking matters, except for one action which was to increase the parking time from 2 hours to 3 hours in Park Avenue and Ford Street. This became effective as of December 2010.

At the planning meeting held this year prior to Ramadan with the Mosque representatives, the idea of allowing Mosque visitors to park in permit zones on Fridays during the month of Ramadan was raised. Council officers discussed the possibility of this proposition and

decided to seek Council approval for it. Council approved the request to trial this strategy on 1 August 2011 with the proviso that Council officers conduct a review of the effectiveness of this trial post Ramadan and report back to Council.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Council has limited options available to it to address the parking demands by Mosque attendees during peak times of the year which happen to occur during the month of Ramadan, and on the mornings of two key holy days of Eid El Fitr and Eid El Adha. This year, efforts were made to minimise disruptions to residents in the area while ensuring the safety of both the residents and visitors to the Mosque. Following is a list of measures that were put in place in that regard:

Parking Controls in Ford Street and Park Avenue

- Legal parking in Ford Street and Park Avenue was increased from two hours to three hours to provide sufficient time for mosque visitors to attend the mosque and meet their religious obligations. However, any vehicles parked beyond the three hour parking limit were issued with infringement notices by Council's Traffic Services Officers.
- A letter was sent to the residents on 21 October 2010 to inform them of the changes to parking controls in Park Avenue and Ford Street, and sought residents' feedback. No feedback was received to the proposed change which became effective in December 2010
- The suspension of permit-only parking in selected streets around the Mosque was a new strategy that was trialled this year during Ramadan (August 2011) and only on Fridays between midday and 3pm. It was introduced to allow an additional 74 car parking spaces to be available during that time. Darebin Council notified the residents about this trial and that a review will be made after Ramadan to evaluate its effectiveness in a letter that was sent to residents on 3 August 2011
- During the month of Ramadan, Traffic Services Officers patrolled the streets surrounding the Mosque between 12pm-2pm. Over 60 parking tickets were issued, the majority of which related to parking within 10 metres of an intersection
- One complaint was received relating to parking on the nature strip
- Instructions on parking and noise control were distributed to mosque visitors throughout the month of Ramadan and leading to the morning of the Eid el Adha
- A dedicated Council officer was charged with the task of responding to residents concerns, liaising with the mosque and dealing with complaints. His name and contact number were provided in the letter sent to all residents.

Traffic Control

- As per previous years, Council approved the closure of Cramer Street and surrounding streets to accommodate and manage the influx of worshippers, monitor traffic and access to emergency vehicles and ensure safety for all. Council understands that the temporary street closure inconveniences some residents. Efforts are constantly made and reviewed to minimise such inconvenience.

- Two shuttle buses were used on the morning of the Eid El Fitr to transport mosque visitors after parking their cars at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre. This helped to alleviate the pressure on parking in surrounding streets

Noise control

- The mosque has installed seven speakers on the external walls of the mosque facing the car park, Cramer Street and Park Avenue. Their use is only applicable when there is an overflow of people congregating outside. This occurs only during two mornings of the year which commemorate Eid el Fitr and Eid el Adha, at night around 7.30pm during the month of Ramadan and on Fridays during midday prayer times. Council checked the volume level of the noise last year and it was determined that they were legally acceptable. Council will continue to monitor the noise levels and work with the mosque to ensure that it remains within legal limits. This will be closely monitored at the next morning Eid which will occur in late October, early November.

Review of the Parking controls

Following feedback received from the mosque, residents in Ford Street and Park Avenue and Council Officers, the suspension of permit-only parking in designated streets led to excessive parking and traffic congestion and therefore will not be repeated in 2012.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council does not have the power to stop the influx of attendees to the mosque. This is a matter that infringes on people's freedom of religion and assembly. However, Council's intervention is an attempt to balance out the rights of residents and mosque visitors by putting in place measures that protect the safety of both.

Environmental Sustainability

During the month of Ramadan, Council officers undertook an outreach program and engaged with mosque visitors to inform them of alternative forms of travel to the mosque and offered them local maps indicating various parking bays available.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Council will be undertaking a more comprehensive engagement strategy with the mosque to ensure Council is responsive to the cultural and religious needs of a very diverse community that includes women, people with disabilities, youth and elderly. Drop-off bays have been assigned close to the mosque to assist passengers with limited mobility to be dropped off in front of the mosque, before having to park their car in an adjacent local road.

Other*Human Rights Charter*

The Council's actions and close collaboration with the mosque is about being considerate to and respectful of the human rights of the Muslim community to worship according to its traditions and religious requirements. This same consideration is given to a number of other religious groups such as Christian groups performing the rituals of their Easter parade. Council is equally cognisant of the rights of the residents to privacy and the enjoyment of

peace and quiet in their homes. Balancing the needs of both parties is at the heart of Council's ongoing efforts to reach a reasonable arrangement agreeable to all concerned.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The cost involved in managing the Mosque-Council-Cramer Street relations is factored into the role of the Multicultural Relations Officer. This year, Council has been successful in securing a grant from the Federal Attorney General's Department for the amount of \$100,000 to implement a project that focuses on building the capacity of the Mosque Governing Committee and the Muslim community to foster positive relationships with the broader community and its immediate neighbours. The additional resources will enable Council to dedicate efforts towards improving the issues of concern that underpin the complaints received by Council every year.

CONCLUSION

A close examination of concerns raised by residents in the Cramer Street neighbourhood indicates that when efforts were made on consistent basis to maintain positive relations in the Cramer Street neighbourhood, the number of complaints decreased and the level of satisfaction by all parties was high. The 2003 Cramer Street Neighbourhood project proved that, while efforts are made to address parking and amenity issues, equal efforts are needed to focus on neighbourly relations. In fact, with limited options available to Council to increase parking availability, more attention is required to work with the residents and the mosque to improve their understanding and acceptance of each other's needs, rights and responsibilities. This aspect of the work will be the focus of this year's funded project - *Darebin's Muslims Reaching Out*.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Recruit the Project Officer for *Darebin's Muslims Reaching Out* Project
- Work closely with the mosque and Cramer Street residents to develop community driven solutions that address concerns raised by residents in this year's review and attempt to work towards long term solutions
- Report to Council on the outcomes of *Darebin's Muslims Reaching Out* Project

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Mosque and Council Memorandum of Understanding Report
- Memorandum of Understanding between Omar Bin al Kattab Mosque and Darebin City Council

- Letter to residents of Ford Street and Park Avenue 21 October 2010
- Letter to residents in the Cramer Street area 3 August 2011
- Council Minutes – 1 August 2011

**8.2 CARING FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS - PRODUCTIVITY
COMMISSION INQUIRY REPORT****MINUTE NO. 324****AUTHOR: Manager Aged and Disability****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager Community Services****SUMMARY:**

The Draft Caring for Older Australians - Productivity Commission Report was released in January 2011. A report was submitted to Council on 20 June 2011 which outlined the major recommendations of the report and their potential implications for Council. The final report was tabled in Parliament in August 2011.

The Federal Government has stated that a response to the recommendations will occur within this term of office. The final report does not vary much from the draft report in terms of the overall design, funding, and regulation of the proposed aged care system, however it does go into more detail providing greater insight into the implications for the delivery of Home and Community Care (HACC) services.

This report will highlight the main impact on the delivery of HACC services, the potential opportunities for Council and outline the advocacy work that will occur in response to the final report.

Council resolved on 20 June 2011 that a further report be submitted when the final report of the Productivity Commission into aged services is released and to develop an advocacy plan to provide feedback to the Municipal Association of Victoria.

CONSULTATION:

Group Manager - Community Services
Municipal Association of Victoria.

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council note this report regarding the Productivity Commission report into aged care and the planned advocacy efforts.
- (2) A further detailed report be provided to Council when the Australian Government formally responds to the Productivity Commission report into aged care.

MOTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang
SECONDED: -

THAT the 'Recommendation' be adopted.

WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON, CR ASMAR, THE PROPOSED MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY CR. CHIANG.

FURTHER MOTION

MOVED: Cr. G. Greco
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT:

- (1) Council note this report regarding the Productivity Commission report into aged care and the planned advocacy efforts.
- (2) Council write to the Hon Nicola Roxon MP (Federal Minister for Health and Ageing), the Hon Martin Ferguson MP, (Member for Batman), State local parliamentary representatives and Federal and State Shadow Ministers with responsibility for ageing and health to express concern about the "Caring for Older Australians Productivity Commission Inquiry Report" proposal to give full responsibility to the Federal Government for the delivery of aged care services nationally.

The letter should highlight the following:

- a) The benefits of the current Darebin model that has served our community well;
 - b) Council's significant financial and social commitment to aged care, illustrated through our Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy; and
 - c) The concerns for the outcomes for vulnerable and marginalised community members.
- (3) A further detailed report be provided to Council when the Australian Government formally responds to the Productivity Commission report into aged care.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. G. Greco
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT:

- (1) Council note this report regarding the Productivity Commission report into aged care and the planned advocacy efforts.
- (2) Council write to the Hon Nicola Roxon MP (Federal Minister for Health and Ageing), the Hon Martin Ferguson MP, (Member for Batman), State local parliamentary representatives and Federal and State Shadow Ministers with responsibility for ageing and health to express concern about the "Caring for Older Australians Productivity Commission Inquiry Report" proposal to give full responsibility to the Federal Government for the delivery of aged care services nationally.

The letter should highlight the following:

- a) The benefits of the current Darebin model that has served our community well;
 - b) Council's significant financial and social commitment to aged care, illustrated through our Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy; and
 - c) The concerns for the outcomes for vulnerable and marginalised community members.
- (3) A further detailed report be provided to Council when the Australian Government formally responds to the Productivity Commission report into aged care.

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Productivity Commission report into aged care was driven by the identification of a need for the current aged care system to be redesigned to ensure it can meet the challenges it faces in the coming decade such as:

- A significant increase in demand with the ageing of Australia's population; and shifts in the type of care demanded including independent living arrangements and choice in aged care services.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Single Level of Government Control

The Productivity Commission Report proposes that the Federal Government would have full responsibility for the delivery of aged care nationally. This is in conflict with the National Health Reform agreement which was signed in August 2011 in which Victoria was granted an exemption from the Commonwealth for a full take over of the responsibility of the HACC Program. This exemption means that the currently unique Victorian arrangements will continue, which includes significant investment from local government.

One Entry Point

The Productivity Commission Report proposes that aged care services would be accessed through a Gateway ('the Gateway') which would be based on Medicare Locals or Local Hospital Network catchment areas. The local governments within the recently funded Northern Medicare Local catchment are Hume, Whittlesea, Banyule, and Nillumbik. The functions of "the Gateway" include:

- Provision of information about local aged care services.
- Assessment of care and support needs.
- Determination of an entitlement to uncapped services that meets the needs of clients and provides them with details of approved providers within their local area.

The HACC funded services that will be assessed through "the Gateway" include homecare, personal care and respite care.

Consumer Choice

Consumers will be able to choose between approved providers based on the quality of services on offer, the professional and relationship skills of carers, cultural awareness and language of services and ability to negotiate the timing of service delivery.

Community Support Services

HACC services such as delivered meals, home maintenance, transport and planned activity groups are now considered to sit outside the other HACC funded services (home care, personal care and respite care) and are referred to as community support services. These services can be referred to directly and do not need to go through "the Gateway" assessment process. These services will receive Federal Government block funding.

Implications

The Productivity Commission report has provided an example of what the new funding model for a single person who is a full aged pensioner and does not own their own home might look like. The total cost of care per fortnight they could receive for example is \$961.40 with a \$40.00 care co-contribution per fortnight. The Aged and Disability Department is currently conducting an analysis to provide a greater understanding of the implications for the sustainability of Darebin Council continuing the provision of home care, personal care and respite care services if the current Government approve the recommendations in the Productivity Commission Report. However it is difficult to accurately assess this as the funding also relates to the purchasing of other HACC funded services such as allied health and nursing.

Opportunities

There are opportunities to work collaboratively with other local governments, and agencies such as the Aged Care Assessment Services and Royal District Nursing services that are funded by either the State or Commonwealth Governments to provide assessment services through a consortium. This consortium could develop an innovative model of service delivery in order to tender for "the Gateway". This would enable us to harness the existing skills and expertise in the field of assessing client need, and provide an opportunity to have greater control over the preservation of our current model of service delivery as well as maintaining our strong links with these organisations.

The preservation of our current model of delivering information, referral and assessment services means that we can continue to ensure that we are able to meet and respond to individual clients needs and have greater surety that our most vulnerable clients will receive the advocacy and support they need to navigate the service system in order to continue to live independently in their own homes.

There would also be the opportunity to specialise in and develop regional services for those HACC services that will move to a block funded model, for example a regional home maintenance service. Similarly we could specialise in the provision of home care, personal care and respite care within our catchment area.

Advocacy Plan

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is currently undertaking a more detailed analysis of the recommendations. They will respond to Federal Ministers particularly in light of the confirmation of the continuing State and Local Government role in HACC service planning and program delivery that was reached with the Federal Government in August through the National Health Reform Agreement.

Through the Northern Managers and Directors partnerships, Darebin is contributing to this response and will provide support to other MAV advocacy efforts.

In addition, direct representation will be made to Federal and State local parliamentary representatives, along with submissions to Federal and State Ministers and Shadow Ministers with responsibility for ageing and health. These representations and submissions will highlight:

- The benefits of the current Darebin model that has served our community well;
- Council's significant financial and social commitment to aged care, illustrated through our Active and Health Ageing Strategy; and
- The concerns for the outcomes for vulnerable and marginalised community members.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Productivity Commission Report refers to this new model of aged care service having a strong restorative based focus that aims to improve the wellbeing of older people. However, how this will be achieved has not been clearly articulated. The report however does have a strong emphasis on cultural, indigenous and sexual diversity. Despite this, there are still concerns that our most marginalised community members will have difficulty navigating a system that has no apparent direct link to Council and that unless individuals can articulate a need for advocacy they will not receive this service.

Other

The proposed recommendations will have an impact on our capacity to meet the actions outlined in the recently launched Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The financial and resource implications of the changes proposed in the Productivity Commission final report are that funding for homecare, personal care and respite care will be allocated to the client rather than the Council receiving the funding directly. This will mean we no longer have surety of current or growth funding for these services and home maintenance, meals, planned activity groups, and community transport and will become block funded activities which means that they will no longer be unit costed activities with targets attached.

In addition to this, with the development of "the Gateway", the information and referral and assessment function may no longer sit with local government. If the Federal Government takes full responsibility for the funding of aged care services, local governments would no longer be funded directly for home care, personal care and respite care. This would mean that if Darebin continues to deliver these services they would need to be delivered within a private enterprise arrangement as there is an expectation in the report that service providers would be in competition with each other in order to secure funding from individuals. Clients could also move from one service to another if they were not satisfied with the level or quality of services provided. If delivery of HACC services by Local Government is not sustainable it would impact on Darebin City Council's capacity to deliver home care, personal care and respite care services into the future.

CONCLUSION

If accepted in full, the recommendations from the Productivity Commission Report will have significant implications for Darebin.

Advocating on behalf of our community will be best achieved through representation on the MAV and through Councilor and officer feedback as well as partnership with other local governments within Melbourne's Northern region to ensure that the unique way HACC services are delivered in Victoria can be retained into the future.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Future actions will be participation in advocacy efforts and feedback to the MAV through regional Local Government managers and directors and at a local level to Federal and State Members and Ministers. In addition to this, a report back to Council will be provided when the Australian Government releases their response to the Final Productivity Commission report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Caring for Older Australians – Productivity Commission Inquiry report
Municipal Association of Victoria Bulletin Issue No 843
Council Minutes – 20 June 2011

8.3 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING ADVISORY BOARD**MINUTE NO. 325****AUTHOR: Manager Aged and Disability****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager Community Services****SUMMARY:**

Council, in endorsing the establishment of an Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board at its meeting on 15 August 2011, further resolved:

'That Officers provide a report to Council in September 2011 on the recruitment model, terms of reference, meeting frequency and scope of the Advisory Board.'

Through endorsing the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, Council has acknowledged the need to consider and understand the issues, policies and drivers that are influencing aged care and their relevance to and impact on Darebin. The Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board will assist in developing this understanding, plus monitor and report on the Active and Health Ageing Strategy 2011-2021.

This report provides details on the proposed Terms of Reference and recruitment method in establishing the Board. It is intended that the inaugural meeting of the Board will be held in February 2012.

CONSULTATION:

- Cities of Brimbank, Casey, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED: Cr. G. Greco****SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang**

THAT Council endorse the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Body Terms of Reference and Recruitment model outlined in this report.

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The development of an Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy has highlighted the current and long term challenges that an ageing community presents for Darebin and the need to ensure that services are tailored to meet specific community need.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Terms of Reference

The following information comprises the 'Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board - Draft Terms of Reference' and outlines the functionality of this board once it is established.

Clarification of Title

While the title refers to the Active and Healthy Advisory **Board**, its function is that of a community advisory committee to Council, therefore this body will not be established as an incorporated or legal Board entity to Council.

Mission Statement

To inform and assist Council in understanding the issues, policies and drivers that influence the provision of aged care in Darebin. To monitor and report on the Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021.

Statement of Purpose

The following points were developed from the report to Council on 15 August 2011 – Benefits of an Advisory Board:

- Represent the interests of older adults in Darebin, including carers and family members.
- Advise Council, through Council management and collaborative working parties, on issues and barriers that affect older adults living, working, recreating or studying in Darebin.
- Advocate on behalf of local older residents, families and carers regarding issues at both a local, State and National level.
- Participate in strategic planning in relation to advocacy and funding for aged care in Darebin.
- Participate in opportunities to provide input into the design and planning of key events and community celebrations such as the Darebin Seniors Festival.
- Provide contributions to various Council project consultations.
- Communicate Council's achievements through the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021 to the broader community.
- It is not the purpose of the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board to become involved in day-to-day operational issues related to service provision.

Membership

Membership of the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board will, as far as possible, be balanced in regard to age, gender, economic status and ethnicity. Total membership comprises 17 positions. The following categories will apply:

- Councillor (Chair)
- 10 resident participants inclusive of gender, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and age balance
- 2 external aged care professionals/researchers
- 4 Council staff from the Community Services directorate.

In recognition that it is not always possible to attend all meetings, if a decision needs to be made by the Board at a meeting, a minimum of five community representatives need to be present.

Appointment of a Councillor, as Board Chair, will be determined through current Council processes relating to Councillor representation on community advisory bodies and committees.

Term and Method of Nomination

Community Representatives will be appointed for a minimum of 2 years. If a vacancy occurs on the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, a public notice will be placed in local newspapers and a letter to local older adult groups and service agencies advising of the vacancy and asking for expressions of interest.

Appointments to vacant positions will be made by a panel of representatives from the committee: the Chair (nominated Councillor); one community representative and one Council officer. A position will be deemed to be vacant if a community representative fails to attend for three consecutive meetings without reasonable grounds.

Support

Support required to enable participation in the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board will be provided by Council. This includes reimbursement of costs for travel, attendant care, respite care, language interpreters (including Auslan) and other reasonable costs.

Meeting times and frequency

An average of six meetings per year, every two months of each year (February, April, June, August, October and December), with additional sub-group meetings as agreed by members. Meetings are to be held on a day and time to suit members.

Financial Interests and Conflict of Interest

Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board members must disclose any financial interests to ensure there is no conflict of interest resulting from their participation on the Board. Council officers will also complete the reporting requirements for an 'Assembly of Council'.

Establishing The BoardRecruitment Model

Achieving balance in representation of participation by our diverse older adult community (age, gender, economic status and ethnicity) is a key aim of the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy. To attain this balance, the recruitment model will include: approaching Councils Home and Community Care (HACC) Aboriginal Liaison Officer (HALO) and Indigenous Policy Officer; promotion of the Board and nomination processes among our established networks of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) older adult community groups, gender specific CALD older adult community groups, Community agencies providing outreach support to older persons Public Housing estates; and advertising in the Local Leader newspaper and Darebin News publications.

The Board also requires 2 external aged care professionals/researcher positions on the Board. To attract this interest, the Board and nomination processes will be promoted among networks such as: Darebin Aged and Disability Services Network; La Trobe University Health Sciences Unit; Darebin Community Health; and the HALO Steering Committee

Nomination Process

For the purposes of accountability and transparency, it is recommended that a written Nomination form be submitted and appointments to the Board made through an assessment panel. Understanding that a written nomination form may provide some barriers for our diverse ageing residents, Ageing Communities Unit staff will be available to assist individuals to complete this process if required. The Nomination Form will collect the data required for the assessment panel to make informed decisions in appointing participants.

A Community Information Kit about the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board will be developed and will include the nomination form. The information will be written in 'plain English' and translated into key community languages.

Assessing Nominations and Appointment to the Board

Appointments to the Board will be made through an assessment process requiring a panel comprised of: Nominated Councillor to the Board; Group Manager Community Services; Manager Aged and Disability; and Coordinator Ageing Communities.

This assessment process will focus on achieving a social inclusion balance on the Board, as well as ensuring the Board acquires the interest and skill set required to undertake its role to Council.

It is proposed that individuals who are not selected for the Board are contacted and asked to remain a community contact to the Board, in the event that work groups are established or vacancies on the Board arise.

Preparing Participants for Inaugural meeting

All successful nominations to the Board will be contacted and sent a letter of appointment. Ageing Communities Unit staff will confirm availability for a 'meet and greet' Board meeting in January 2012. The aims of this session will be to: orientate the individuals to each other; express each person's interest, experience and skills; establish some 'group' rules focusing on conduct during meeting procedures; and clarify the purpose of the Board

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Establishing an Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board is aligned with the Darebin Social Inclusion agenda, Human Rights Charter and Checklist, and Council's broader commitment to respect community diversity and wellbeing. The processes outlined in this report for establishing and resourcing the Board aim to achieve an application of the following Social Inclusion and Diversity lenses: Indigenous; Gender; Age; Low Socio Economic Disadvantage; Ability and Support; Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities.

The Board will consolidate Council's understanding of the composition, strengths, opportunities, vulnerability and attitudes of the community in relation to ageing well and staying connected and further enhance networks and partnerships.

Other

An Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board also aligns with and progresses the work of the *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2012* in relation to older people in Darebin by providing a 'later years' perspective to the life course lens and human rights, social inclusion, diversity and gender planning principles.

The *Council Plan 2009-2013* will also be at the forefront of the Board's collective thinking.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Met within current Ageing Communities Unit budget.

CONCLUSION

The establishment of an Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board will provide Council with a formal structure to monitor the progress of the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy and gain a better understanding of the current and long term challenges that an ageing community presents for Darebin.

The processes outlined in this report to establish the Board aim to: achieve accountable and transparent nomination and selection processes; remove potential barriers to participation on the Board; convene a collective of diverse residents, recognising their current skills and capacities; and include external professionals/researchers to keep abreast of developed innovative approaches in aged care.

Through the development of these approaches and strategic advocacy, Council will ensure a leadership role in the aged care sector and continued best practice in service delivery and community engagement.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Link with HALO and Indigenous Policy Officer (October 2011)
- Promote Board and Nomination Processes – Networks and Advertising (October – November 2011)
- Nominations Open (October 2011) and Close (13 November 2011)
- Convene Assessment Panel – 1 meeting (November 2011)
- Confirm Appointments to the Board (November – December 2011)
- Appoint a Councillor to the position of Board Chairperson (5 December 2011)
- Meet and Greet - 1 meeting (January 2012)
- Inaugural Meeting (February 2012)

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Briefing Paper: Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board, 26 September 2011
- Council Report: Darebin Draft Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021, 29 November 2010
- Council Report: Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy Advisory Board, 15 August 2011.

8.4 DAREBIN EARLY YEARS PLAN 2011-2021 AND DAREBIN EARLY YEARS INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2011-2031**MINUTE NO. 326****AUTHOR: Manager Family and Children****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager Community Services****SUMMARY:**

In December 2010 Council noted the Darebin Early Years Strategy with the vision:

Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.

The Darebin Early Years Plan and the Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan are the key documents that articulate the strategies and tasks that will enable this vision to be achieved and improve outcomes for families and children.

The Darebin Early Years Plan provides three outcomes that are to be achieved, the activities that will enable the outcomes to be achieved and specific tasks attached to these activities.

The outcomes are:

1. Services and Programs

Family and child centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.

2. Context and Influence

Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.

3. Collaborative Partnerships

Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children

Darebin Best Start (a State funded project with a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention) and previously a stand alone project, has been brought under the umbrella of the Darebin Early Years Plan to ensure a cohesive, integrated approach to the planning and delivery of services.

The Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan provides a local area service mapping and infrastructure audit to identify opportunities and timeframes for facility development. The plan includes the following:

- Listing and mapping of early years facilities provided by Council
- Indicators of future demands
- Early years infrastructure planning approach and priorities
- Early years services population based supply and demand area assessments.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Early Years Reference Group

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT Council adopt the Darebin Early Years Plan and the Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan attached as **Appendices A and B** to this report.

CARRIED

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Council, at its meeting on 7 June 2010 endorsed:

- The brief to develop an Early Years Strategy; and
- The establishment of the Darebin Early Years Reference Group.

In response, Council's Family and Children department led the development of an Early Years Strategy. This strategy identified Council's principle based role within the early years sector to guide planning for our community's future early years needs in relation to infrastructure and services. In December 2010, Council noted the Darebin Early Years Strategy vision and principles.

The Darebin Early Years Plan and the Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan are the operational plans that emanate from the long term vision and principle based Darebin Early Years Strategy. The Darebin Early Years Plan and the Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan will be annually reviewed and updated to maintain relevance in this rapidly changing sector.

- The Darebin Early Years Plan focuses on planning services across Darebin for children and families. This plan incorporates the Best Start Action Plan with a focus on service level changes that improve specific outcomes for children, in particular those who are more vulnerable in our community; and
- The Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan provides a local area service mapping and infrastructure audit to identify opportunities and timeframes for facility development.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Research confirms that investments in the early years of children's lives have significant benefits, both immediate and long-term for individual children, their families and for the broader community. Council has a long history in the provision of services to children and their families. Services currently provided include: management of services; early childhood resource and liaison to services; assistance to services for inclusion of children with additional needs; centralised waiting lists for placement of children in kindergarten and child care programs; support to play groups; toy library, maternal and child health services; immunisation program; and family support services to vulnerable families.

Darebin Families - The Darebin Early Years Reference Group, at their meeting held 5 April 2011, agreed that the following statement from the Victorian Families Statement defined Darebin families well.

“Today there is no typical Victorian family. Victorians live in single-parent households, blended, step and extended families. Some of us are starting a family while others have seen their children grow up and move out to live independent lives. Some couples choose not to have children, some people choose to live alone or in group households and some include same-sex relationships. Some families have recently arrived in Victoria from different parts of Australia and the world while Aboriginal families have called this place home for many thousands of years. Amongst us, there are families who are struggling and families who are enjoying success. Regardless, they all make up the fabric of Victorian society” – Victorian Families Statement, Victorian Government 2011.

Darebin Early Years Plan - The Darebin Early Years Plan articulates the provision of services to children and their families according to the following policy directions:

Outcomes What are we going to achieve?	Services and Programs 1. Family and child centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.	Context and Influence 2. Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.	Collaborative Partnerships 3. Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.
Activities How will we achieve our aims?	1.1 Council will continue the provision of inclusive and integrated family and children’s services. 1.2 We will provide services for those with diverse needs and actively remove barriers to access services for those who face the greatest disadvantage. 1.3 Council will work to attract a strong local mix of services to meet the needs of all families and children. We will actively work with all providers to enhance the quality of services.	2.1 We will create opportunities to enhance the wellbeing of families and children through community participation. 2.2 Council’s planning of the natural and built form of the city will consider how families and children participate in community activity and spaces. 2.3 We will work to further understand the diversity of family and children needs and advocate on behalf of our community.	3.1 We will engage with families and children who access our services and encourage involvement in Council decision making processes. 3.2 Council will continue to provide strong local service leadership through its coordinated family and children services team. 3.3 We will build partnerships with government, local agencies, support groups and early years service providers to realise our common commitments to meeting the needs of families and children. Together our advocacy will be strengthened.

<p>Activities How will we achieve our aims?</p>	<p>1.4 Community based services will be supported by the provision and maintenance of facilities. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan outlines the direction towards early years hubs, multipurpose community facilities and local neighbourhood centres.</p>	<p>2.4 We will increase community understanding of the importance and opportunities of the early years. 2.5 Council will work to strengthen the capacity of the early years workforce through the provision of local training opportunities and advocacy on behalf of services.</p>	<p>3.4 We will facilitate local early years networks to enhance service integration and build collective wisdom.</p>
<p>Tasks Specific actions?</p>	<p>The Early Years Plan attached as Appendix A highlights tasks to achieve each policy direction.</p>		

Best Start

Darebin Best Start (a State funded project with a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention) and previously a stand alone project, has been brought under the umbrella of the Darebin Early Years Plan to ensure a cohesive, integrated approach to the planning and delivery of services. Best Start has a particular focus on ensuring that vulnerable young children and their families who are not currently engaged with universal services, or prematurely disengaged, are able to participate in the universal service platform.

The Darebin Early Years Plan highlights the programs which are targeting vulnerable families and their children, through an involvement in the Best Start project.

Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan

The Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan provides a local area service mapping and infrastructure audit to identify opportunities and timeframes for facility development.

The plan recommends:

1. Council is committed to the ongoing provision of universal facilities and services (for example Maternal and Child Health) for all Darebin families and children.
2. Council will continue to provide and maintain facilities to support community managed service provision.
3. Council is committed to supporting a mix of service provision (community based and commercial) and will actively support all service providers in Darebin, including commercial providers. Council will encourage commercial providers to establish additional early years services in Darebin, particularly those offering long day care services.
4. Early Years Infrastructure in Darebin will be planned and redeveloped according to the following early years infrastructure hierarchy model:
 - Early Years Multipurpose Facilities – in major activity centres
 - Early Years Hub – integrating services in community precincts
 - Neighbourhood Early Years Facilities – early years services in local areas.

5. Council will continue to seek capital resources both internally and externally, to meet the increasing demand for early years facilities. Council will prepare information to support applications and will be responsive to opportunities as they arise.
6. In planning and developing early years infrastructure, Council will work towards increasing early years service integration (for example Early Years Hubs and Community Hubs).
7. Council to invest in early years facilities on land not owned by Council (with careful mitigation of risks). Council will develop partnership with local schools to seek early years transition site and evaluate this initiative.
8. Council is committed to the development of long term sustainable solutions. Early years infrastructure will be carefully planned based on future population data and maximise multipurpose facility design in key activity centres. Relocatable buildings will only be used in circumstances of immediate action and rapid peaks in population changes that are projected to change in the short term.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The impacts of climate change and peak oil are significant to the ongoing provision of staff, costs of service delivery, health and well-being of those who are vulnerable and community infrastructure. Council's Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan as well as Environmental Sustainable Design principles will guide the development of appropriate and sustainable responses and actions throughout the Early Years Strategy, Early Years Plan and Early Years Infrastructure Plan.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Darebin Early Years Strategy, Early Years Plan and Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan align with the Darebin Social Inclusion Agenda, Diversity Policy, Human Rights Check List and Council's broader commitment to respect community diversity and wellbeing. The research and consultation processes consolidate Council's understanding of the composition, strengths, opportunities, vulnerabilities and attitudes of the community in relation to families and children.

Other

The Darebin Early Years Plan and Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan are aligned with and progresses the work of the *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013* by providing an early years focus to the life course lens and operationalises the human rights, social inclusion, diversity and gender planning principles.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A 10 year financial model will be developed outlining both capital and operational funding to support the implementation of the Darebin Early Years Plan and Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan according to Council's corporate planning systems to ensure our commitments align with our business planning.

CONCLUSION

The Darebin Early Years Plan and Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan are the key strategic documents that articulate the strategies and tasks that will enable the vision of Darebin Early Years Strategy to be achieved and improve outcomes for families and children. The plans set out directions for the next 10 and 20 years and are the basis for the detailed operational plans that will guide the ongoing operations of Council's Family and Children department.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Darebin Early Years Reference Group – ongoing
- A summary of the Darebin Early Years Plan for partner agencies and community for circulation.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Report 7 June 2010 – Darebin Early Years Framework (zA20515)

8.5 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING**MINUTE NO. 327****AUTHOR: Council Business Coordinator****REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Business Services****SUMMARY:**

This report provides a summary of the status of reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at September 2011.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT the status report on Reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at September 2011, attached as **Appendix A** to this report, be received and noted.

CARRIED**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The status of outstanding reports and actions requested by Council resolution is reported to Council monthly.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

A schedule of the reports and actions outstanding as at September 2011 is attached as **Appendix A**.

The list of reports requested includes items raised by Councillors under 'General Business'.

Items are deleted from the list once the report or action has been completed and the completed status has been noted by the Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that this status report on Reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at September 2011 be received and noted.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The next status report will be submitted to Council at its meeting on 21 November 2011.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of previous meetings of the Council.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang

SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following item which relates to a contractual matter:

11.1 Annual Supply for Minor Civil Works (CT201123).

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to members of the public at 7.59pm

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 11.1 (Annual Supply for Minor Civil Works (CT201123)) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 29 September 2011 with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang

SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.

CARRIED

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 8.19pm

CONFIDENTIAL**11.1 ANNUAL SUPPLY FOR MINOR CIVIL WORKS (CT201123)****MINUTE NO. 328****AUTHOR: Manager Major Projects, Engineering and Transport****REVIEWED BY: Director City Works and Development****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the provision of services for the Annual Supply for Minor Civil Works (CT201123) for a three year period from October 2011 to October 2014. The contract term will be for a period of three years (Schedule of Rates) from the date of Letter of Acceptance. Generally, the works may include drainage and footpath works, traffic management treatments or plant and labour hire as required. These works are generally smaller type projects that are better suited to this type of contract.

A new Annual Supply for Minor Civil Works (CT201123) is proposed which has been divided into two parts: Part A - Construction of Miscellaneous Drainage, Concrete and Traffic Management works and Supply of Plant and Labour Hire; and Part B - Supply of Concrete Footpath Grinding works.

The Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) has evaluated the tenders and this report recommends awarding of the contracts to the preferred tenderers.

CONSULTATION:

Coordinator Capital Works
Coordinator Operational Projects and Fleet
Tendering and Contract Specialist
Senior Procurement Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council Resolution be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. G. Greco
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT the following Council Resolution:

That:

- (1) *The following tenderers are the preferred tenderers for an individual agreement, for the provision of Annual Supply for Minor Civil Works - (Part A) - Construction of Miscellaneous Drainage, Concrete and Traffic Management works and Supply of Plant and Labour Hire, under Contract CT 201123 for a three year period from October 2011 to October 2014:*
 - *Petrolo Constructions Pty Ltd*
 - *Fercon Pty Ltd*
 - *Alfa Constructions Pty Ltd*
 - *United Roads Pty Ltd*
 - *Franco Paving Pty Ltd*
 - *CDN Constructors Pty Ltd and*
 - *Little Rock Road Services Pty Ltd.*
- (2) *The following tenderers are the preferred tenderers for an individual agreement, for the provision of Annual Supply for Minor Civil Works - (Part B) - Supply of Concrete Footpath Grinding works, under Contract CT 201123 for a three year period from October 2011 to October 2014*
 - *Australian Grinding Company Pty Ltd and*
 - *All Suburbs Path Grinding.*
- (3) *Council sign and seal the contracts under the common seal of Darebin City Council.*

be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

CARRIED

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm